

A new combination in *Lotus* section *Pedrosia* (Leguminosae, Loteae)

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Summary: A new nomenclatural combination, *Lotus tenellus* (Lowe) Sandral, A. Santos & D. D. Sokoloff is proposed.

Keywords: Fabaceae, *Lotus tenellus*, *Pedrosia tenella*, new combination

The taxonomic boundaries within the *Lotus glaucus* complex are probably the most problematic in *Lotus* sect. *Pedrosia*. Representatives of the complex occur in Madeira, Salvage Islands and Canary Islands. *Lotus glaucus* Ait. from Madeira was the first discovered species of the complex and was described by AITON (1789). Later, LOWE (1856, 1862) described taxa within this complex as members of a separate genus *Pedrosia* Lowe. These taxa were subsequently transferred by other botanists into the genus *Lotus*. Since these transfers, additional morphological and molecular phylogenetic data also suggested the name *Pedrosia* to be synonymous under *Lotus* (MONOD 1980; KRAMINA & SOKOLOFF 1999; BRAMWELL & BRAMWELL 2001; ALLAN et al. 2003, 2004; DEGTJAREVA et al. 2006; SOKOLOFF 2006).

One of the taxa described by Lowe is *Pedrosia tenella* Lowe from Tenerife (Canary Islands). Most botanists considered it to be a synonym of *Lotus glaucus* s.l. (e.g. BRAND 1898; BORNMÜLLER 1903; PITARD & PROUST 1908; DAVIS 1971; BRAMWELL & BRAMWELL 2001). Our investigations show that the taxon described by LOWE (1862) should be accepted as a distinct species (see ALLAN et al. 2004; SANDRAL et al. 2006). Within the scope of extensive studies of herbarium samples [BM, G, K, LE, LISU, M, MA, RNG, Z] and living plants in Tenerife, we could not find *Lotus glaucus* s.str. in Tenerife. We propose the following new combination:

***Lotus tenellus* (Lowe) Sandral, A. Santos & D. D. Sokoloff, comb. nova**

≡ *Pedrosia tenella* Lowe, Man. fl. Madeira 1: 177 (1862). – Original material: *Bourgeau 1323*, Teneriffa: in rupibus maritimis Las Burgadas, 9 Mar. 1855 [BM, not seen; duplicate examined at K].

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